

VLR-10/18/88 NRHP-3/20/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Michael's Episcopal Church NHL File No. 72-38other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 2245 Hu manot Trail (VA 711) ☒ not for publicationcity, town Glenn Creek Hill ☒ vicinitystate Virginia code VA county Powhatan code 145 zip code 23139

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Feb. 7, 1989

Date

Director, Va. Division of Historic Landmarks

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century: Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls brick

roof asphalt

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary Description:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is located at the junction of Routes 615 and 711 (Old River Road) in Powhatan County, 1.5 miles East of Pine Creek Mill, Virginia. The structure is a small, one-story brick church exhibiting features of the Classical Revival Style. The building has undergone minimum alteration; all of which has adhered faithfully to the style of the original structure. The nomination consists of one contributing building(the church), set within a walled churchyard.

Architectural Description:

The facade of St. Luke's Church faces due North, fronting on Route 711; Route 615 lies to the East. The original portion of the building consists of a #20' by #36' one-story rectangular brick structure surmounted by a pedimented classical gable roof and front. The gable is framed by a cornice, and the roofing is covered with grey asphalt tile. There are two sets of twin stained-glass windows on the respective east and west elevations of the nave; all divided from each other; the top transepts of each are surmounted by a classical pediment(exterior only). The windows are protected by black louvered shutters. The Northwest windows exhibit a pointed-arch motif and are definitely Gothic in inspiration. The white cross over the front door on the outside of the church was not part of the original front, but was given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard H. Mayo

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vainscoting runs along the side walls. Four ceiling lights illuminate the interior. The entrance to the recessed chancel and sanctuary is framed by a classical temple facade with twin Doric columns on either side.

The overall impression is of amazing symmetry and architectural harmony, and simplicity. The prevailing influence is Classical, though certain Gothic elements, such as the motifs on the stained-glass windows may point to a limited degree of Ecclesiological influence.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1843-15

Significant Dates

1843-44

1890

1915

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Henry Harrison

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement of significance:

St. Luke's Episcopal Church stands as an example of a rural antebellum Classical-style church; few such churches have survived and fewer still have survived in such an outstanding state of preservation. Alteration has been minimal, and has been exceptionally faithful to the original style. No structural alterations have been made since 1915. Built without outside assistance by a member of the congregation, the church has housed a small membership whose historic prominence in Powhatan County has far outweighed its comparative numbers. Many descendants of the original families remain active in parish affairs. In this context, St. Luke's is undoubtedly an outstanding example of continuity and preservation of tradition.

Historical background:

Although the construction of St. Luke's Episcopal Church occurred sometime between July 1843 and December 1844, the congregation was in existence as early as March 1842.¹ The construction of the building was apparently a labor of love on the part of William Henry Harrison, an immigrant from England, and of his wife Debora. Harrison, who served in the British army at the Battle of Waterloo, left

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England in the 1820's; in 1827 he appeared in Powhatan County, purchasing part of the Middlesex Tract from J.P.B. Harris of "Millwood".² He seems to have been in the building trade originally and to have been reasonably adept in engineering and architecture; he designed and built his own house, which is still standing and occupied by his descendants. In July 1843, Harrison and his wife deeded 1.5 acres of land for the site of a new church.³ Harrison took the leading role in all phases of the operation: supervising the making of the bricks from clay, which was dug and baked on site, and directing all the actual labor. The church was finished and dedicated in 1844; the building was a simple rectangular form measuring 20 feet by 36 feet.⁴ The Right Reverend John Johns, Assistant Bishop, who consecrated St. Luke's on April 10, 1845, praised the beauty of the structure, though he could not resist lamenting its small size.⁵ Johns' comments notwithstanding, size was no hindrance to the congregation, which could not have numbered more than 80 individuals.⁶

In 1848, the silver communion service still used by the congregation was presented by the Millwood Sewing Circle, which became the present-day Women of the Church.⁷ In May 1853, the church was placed within Powhatan Parish; its first rector, Dr. Andrew Fisher(1842-58), being assigned responsibility for St. James's and Southam Parishes as well.⁸ The second rector was Dr. Lewis Walke(1858-86). Church members were deeply involved in the tumultuous events of the Civil War. The Powhatan Cavalry Troop, organized by Phillip St. George Cocke, was bivouacked at St. Luke's

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churchyard in 1861 before being called to Richmond by General Robert E. Lee.⁹ John F. Lay, who was registrar for St. Luke's vestry, was elected first lieutenant of the troop, and took command as captain when Cocke was commissioned as brigadier general.¹⁰ Among those who worshipped at St. Luke's, members of the Michaux, Heth, Sublett, Harrison, Selden, Kennon, Hobson, and Finney families served with the Confederate forces.¹¹ The most notable was Lieutenant General Henry Heth, one of Lee's most respected subordinates, who particularly distinguished himself during the first day at Gettysburg.¹² Lee's brother, Charles Carter Lee, who owned property at Fine Creek, was also very active in the St. Luke's congregation.¹³

Dr. Martin Johnson(1886-1915) was the third rector. During his tenure the parish was reconstituted into the Diocese of Southern Virginia(1892).¹⁴ The building was enlarged into its present form: in 1890 a recessed chancel was built; and in 1915 a choir and a vestry room were added to the right and left of the chancel.

Members of St. Luke's have continued to take an active role in community affairs, including the sponsorship of a Boy Scout Troop(No. 869).

Footnotes:

1 Parish Record, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1842-1919.

2 Inez Mayo Williams, "History of St. Luke's Church.", (Unpublished, 1988).

3 Original Deed to St. Luke's Church(1843).

4 No specific date, aside from the year, can be ascertained.

5 Williams, Ibid.

6 Figure derived from information in Parish Record.

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- 7 It consists of a flagon, two chalices, and a paten; Williams, Ibid.
- 8 Parish Record, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1842-1919.
- 9 Richard T. Couture, Powhatan: A Bicentennial History (Richmond, 1980), p. 248.
- 10 Ibid.;
Parish Record, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1842-1919.
- 11 Couture, pp. 248-249; 253-254; 257; 504-506.;
Parish Record, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1842-1919.
- 12 Douglas Southall Freeman, Lee's Lieutenants, Vol. 2 (New York, 1971),
pp. 698-699.;
Parish Record, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1842-1919.
- 13 Couture, pp. 248, 263-264.;
Parish Record, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1842-1919.
- 14 Williams, Ibid.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Couture, Richard W., Powhatan: A Bicentennial History (Richmond, 1980).

Freeman, Douglas Southall, Lee's Lieutenants, Vol. 2 (New York, 1971).

Parish Records, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1842-1919.

Original Deed to St. Luke's Church(1843); and Deeds to properties in and around St. Luke's Church, 1881-1974; and Cemetery Layout(1954-58).

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☒ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # HABSI
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Va. Division of Historic Landmarks
Richmond, Va. 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.5

UTM References

A 18 252720 4164280
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point of the intersection of Routes 615 and 711; West approx. 500 feet along Route 711; thence along the churchyard wall approx. 430 feet South; thence East to Route 615(which forms the eastern

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Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of 1.5 acres. Included within the property is the enclosed churchyard(and cemetery) wherein sits St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Raymond Pierre Hylton/Faculty
organization Virginia Commonwealth University date August 27, 1988
street & number 912 W. Franklin Street telephone (804) 362-1635
city or town Richmond state Va zip code 23284

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boundary of the nominated property); thence Northeast to point of
origin.

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000193

Date Listed: 3/29/89

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Property NamePowhatan
CountyVA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus

for Signature of the Keeper

3/29/89

Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

National Register Criteria Consideration A (for religious properties) was not checked on the form. Julie Vosmick with the VA SHPO says that this was a technical oversight. The form is now officially amended to include Criteria Consideration A.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

